

Media Release



Date: 12 October 2009

IT'S TIME TO REFLECT AND BE PROUD

The Orange Aboriginal community recently concluded the NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observing Committee) Week celebrations with an impressive Awards Night dinner that attracted around 300 guests to the local Ex Services Club.

NAIDOC Week brings together all community members to celebrate and acknowledge Aboriginal culture, history and achievements.

As one of the proud sponsors of NAIDOC Week, the Central West Catchment Management Authority (CMA) was invited to provide the keynote speech and present the three prestigious achievement awards during the evening.

Representing the Central West CMA, Aboriginal Communities Officer William Burns provided a speech focusing on building and strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal communities to care for and improve the health of our natural resources.

The NAIDOC Awards Dinner special guest, the Honourable Minister for Community Services and the Minister for Women, Linda Burney who is from Wiradjuri descent. Linda's keynote speech was inspiring to all and outlined NAIDOC's history and emphasised the value of working together to achieve harmony and cohesion across the nation.

Catchment Coordinator, Tim Gardiner presented the three awards including the Community Achievement Award to Ellen Rose, the Junior Female Sports Award presented to sisters Elizabeth and Bernadette Barden and the Junior Male Sports Award to Trent French.

Tim said, "The Central West CMA was honoured to be part of the NAIDOC celebrations as the goal of bringing communities together certainly aligns with our CMA's vision of '*vibrant communities, healthy landscapes*'.

To achieve our vision we need to restore not only the natural resources of land, water and vegetation, but we also need to heal the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians."

The Awards Dinner was a family affair with the guests well entertained by an Aboriginal regional band consisting of three blood brothers known as, 'A Foot Full of Bindies' who played a diverse range of music that ensured the celebrations concluded on a high note.

ENDS

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